

## Residential Rain Garden in Abbott Loop

\*Path eroded by  
roof runoff.  
\*Rock circle indi-  
cates planned rain  
garden outline.



**Completed: August 2008**  
**Landscaper Used: Self**  
**Size: 136 sq ft**  
**Time to Build: 130 hrs**  
**Total Cost: \$1,600**

Plants: \$1090  
Bricks: \$220  
Edging: \$100  
Topsoil: \$80  
Mulch: \$50  
Bucket System: \$30  
Rototiller Rental: \$25  
Gravel: free (in native soil)

**After**



**Before** the rain garden there was a clearly eroded path that the water took across the flat grass area. **After** the rain garden was installed the roof runoff was collected in the rain garden and infiltrated.

This house does not have gutters, rather runoff falls directly from the roof into a lined rock trench. It then flows downhill into the rain garden.

## Abbott Loop Rain Garden

Landscaper Used: None

Total Cost: \$1,600



### Test your Rain Garden - See if it works!

Notice the ponded water in the picture to the right. It is pooling *outside* of the rain garden. This happened because the elevation of the trench was **lower** than the surface of the rain garden, water can't flow up hill.

\*The next page shows how this rain garden owner resolved the issue. To prevent this problem in your own garden, excavate the garden footprint area to 3 feet, and be certain you don't try to put too much dirt back in. Leave 10 inches of freeboard between your soil surface and the top of your berm to allow for 2 inches of mulch and 8 inches of ponded water.



**Trench Renovation:** This page shows how the trench was fixed. The owner added brick berms on either side of the drainage path, lined the flow path with plastic, and then filled the trench with rocks.

**Abbott Loop Rain Garden**  
Landscaper Used: None  
Total Cost: \$1,600



- Plant List:**
- Ligularia
  - Day Lily
  - Lavender
  - Spiraea
  - Potentilla
  - Cranberry
  - Geranium
  - Hosta
  - Willow Shrub
  - Queen Globe
  - Red Twig Dogwood
  - Fern
  - Ornamental Lilac
  - Blueberry

**Abbott Loop Rain Garden**  
Landscape Used: None  
Total Cost: \$1,600



**Berm and Water Storage Innovations:**

- \*Brick spaces are filled to increase ponding depth and rain garden storage capacity.
- \*The sunken bucket acts like a reservoir. It fills with storm-water before flooding to the rest of the garden. The reservoir can be pumped out using a small fountain pump to water other gardens.

